

10-04-04

2142
JFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors : Naokatsu OHKAWA
Takashi HONDA

Serial No. : 09/810,241

Filed : March 16, 2001

Title : **MESSAGE TRANSFER METHOD AND
APPARATUS**

Examiner : Hieu C. Le

Group Art Unit : 2142

October 1, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In the Office Action dated September 8, 2004, a Restriction Requirement divides the application into the following two Groups:

Group I, including claims 1, 2, 5 – 8, 11 and 12, drawn to “a method of transferring a message between a plurality of nodes forming a ring” (class 709, subclass 238);
and

Group II, including claims 3, 4, 9 and 10, drawn to “a method of transferring a message between a plurality of nodes forming a ring, wherein each pair of adjacent nodes forms a group and any two adjacent nodes have node identifiers different from each other” (class 709, subclass 204).

Any fee due with this paper may be
Charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290

Filed by Express Mail
Receipt No. 62 9807898854
on Oct-01-04
pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.10.
By Patricia Muir
Patricia Muir

Applicants elect without traverse Group I, including claims 1, 2, 5 – 8, 11 and 12, and reserve all rights to file one or more divisional patent applications based on the unelected claims at a future time.

An earnest effort has been made to respond to this Restriction Requirement. It is believed that elected claims 1, 2, 5 – 8, 11 and 12 stand in condition for allowance. Passage of this application to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Bean
Reg. No. 44,528

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304
KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN
575 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022-2585
PHONE: (212) 940-8800/FAX: (212) 940-8776
DOCKET No.: FUJA 18.481 (100794-11661)